

# First proof of patient-to-nurse infection of coronavirus, WHO says

May 15 2013

---

Two Saudi health workers have contracted the deadly coronavirus from patients, marking the first evidence of transmission in a hospital setting, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

"This is the first time health care workers have been diagnosed with nCoV (novel [coronavirus](#)) infection after exposure to patients," the WHO said in a statement.

The two health care workers were among six new cases announced by the Saudi health ministry on Tuesday.

The UN's health body said that while other health care workers had contracted the deadly disease in Jordan, there had until now not been clear evidence that they had been infected by patients carrying the virus.

"This is the first time we have pretty hard and fast evidence of it," WHO spokesman Gregory Haertl explained to AFP.

"[Health care facilities](#) that provide care for patients with suspected nCoV infection should take appropriate measures to decrease the risk of transmission of the virus to other patients and [health care workers](#)," the agency said.

WHO said one of the new patients with laboratory-confirmed nCoV was a 45-year-old man who became ill on May 2, and who was currently in a critical condition.

The second patient was a 43-year-old woman with a coexisting health condition, who became ill on May 8 and was in a stable condition.

"[Health care providers](#) are advised to be vigilant among recent travellers returning from areas affected by the virus who develop SARI," or severe [acute respiratory infections](#), WHO said.

The organisation however continued to say travel restrictions and special screening was not yet called for to limit the spread of the virus.

Since last September, WHO says it has been informed of a global total of 40 laboratory confirmed cases of the virus, including 20 deaths.

While the virus has been deadliest in Saudi Arabia, which now counts 30 infections, half of them fatal, cases have also been reported in Jordan, Qatar, Germany, Britain and France, where two patients are now in hospital in the northern city of Lille.

© 2013 AFP

Citation: First proof of patient-to-nurse infection of coronavirus, WHO says (2013, May 15) retrieved 18 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-05-proof-patient-to-nurse-infection-coronavirus.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.